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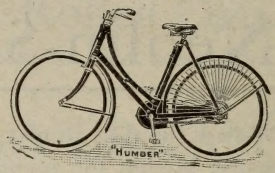

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The CAMOSUN

VOLUME X. DECEMBER, *1917* NUMBER 2

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Pte. Frank Youngs
Pte. Stanley Young
Lieut. Shirley Yuill

✠ Killed in action.

Greeting

FIRST and foremost, The Camosun extends to its readers the heartiest Christmas Greetings and the Best Wishes for a Prosperous New Year. This issue serves a two-fold purpose to the student body. As a vehicle of Christmas cheer it endeavors to be the embodiment of the cordial spirit of the season. As an issue dedicated to the preliminary year it may serve to stimulate school spirit among the first-year students and also to inform those of longer acquaintance with the High School that there is still such a thing as a Prelim in existence. We hope that this issue will enlarge the Preliminaries' acquaintance with some of our most prominent students and engender a spirit of emulation in their youthful bosoms. The first-year classes are by this time getting into touch with the affairs of the school and showing a commendable interest in its activities. We hope, nay, feel assured, that this interest will continue to increase. And now, leaving the Preliminaries to their blissful meditations as to what Santa Claus will put in their stockings, we close this dedicatory epistle by reiterating our wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Gibson Photo

Camosun Idols

ROY DANIELLS

As President of the Matric Year, associate editor of The Camosun and executive member of the Beta Delta, shows a keen interest in school affairs. Is a good student, passing first from the Junior Year.

NORAH DRURY

Matric A star, who acts as vice-president of the Matric organization and holds the position of secretary on the Girls' Basketball Committee.

ARTHUR NASH

An energetic Matric, who is secretary of the Beta Delta and also holds position of associate editor of the Camosun.

HELEN COLPITTS

Is a prominent member of Matric A, which class she represents on the V.H.S. P.A.O.. She is also secretary of the Portia.

DOUGLAS WALLIS

"Doug" is second secretary of the Athletic Association, Matric representative on the Rugby Association, a company commander in the Cadet Corps, and Matric C's representative on the V.H.S.P.A.O. and the Camosun. Altogether he is one of the most popular boys in the school.

URSULA EDWARDS

Is well known as Matric representative on the Portia executive and also acts as an associate editor for the Camosun.

Ye Schoole's Yuletide Revel

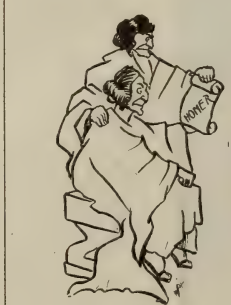
SOME time ago I received an invitation to journey, in company with several other mortals, to the realms of our old friend, Santa Claus. The purpose was to recover from the effects of the examinations. Incidentally we were to be entertained to a dinner. As all my efforts have been expended in a fruitless desire to win the new game, "Beat the examiner," I am now devoid of whatever reason I ever possessed. However, as reason does not enter into this document, that is a slight matter.

The sleigh awaiting us was driven by Sheret, who, with his prodigious knowledge on all concerning vehicles of locomotion, was fondly caressing the reindeer. As we were about to start, a spray of snow became visible behind us, and in a few moments Osborne dashed madly up, riding with his customary grace upon a vividly painted hobby horse. On seeing us he dismounted by the simple method of falling off. "Why such speed?" I queried, thinking it out of accordance with his usual manner. "I have been invited to preside over the feast, and am therefore in an excessive hurry to get there." With this he remounted and careened away towards the sky-line.

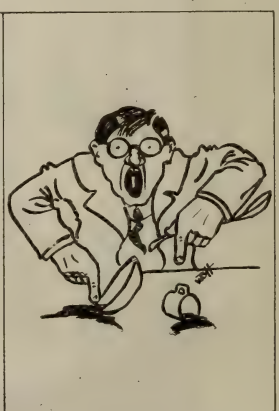
We followed, passing on our way McIntosh, who, with childish simplicity, was turning somersaults at a giddy speed. Evidently he thought this the quickest means of getting there. The remainder of the journey passed without incident except for the fact that Nash fell off and pursued the sleigh with desperate speed for three-quarters of an hour, until we finally noticed that he was missing. We stopped to pick him up, only to deposit him a few moments later at the door of Santa Claus' home. As he staggered up the pathway, weak from his efforts to gain the world's record, I must say that it created a bad impression as to the state of the party.

Meanwhile several of the fairer sex had driven up. From what

Osborne, the Equestrian



Our Greek Students



Clinching an Argument

heard, until the time appointed for this jamboree (note the influence of Hindu on the English language), there had been great anxiety as to suitable costumes. The vital question of "What am I to wear" had been gloriously mixed with the daily tasks; if Caesar only could have heard his Gallic wars mingled with a heated discussion regarding the suitability of evening dress, or Shakespeare have seen his Pistol arrayed in a decollete georgette crepe blouse, "Bill" would have turned in his grave and Julius' ashes would have gone up in smoke. Williams arrived on his trusty motor-cycle, dragging a soap-box attached by a pink ribbon. With true politeness he was conveying several of the prefects. Miss Nachtrieb reclined in state in the side-car, Miss Dwyer was on the back seat, and Miss Hodgson, was seated in her usual dignified style, in the soap box, with her feet hanging over, just to balance things. Far in the east a shining light appeared, and when it drew near we noticed Miss Beckwith and Miss Pontifex, borne on the wings of fancy (owing to the scarcity of jitneys), and busily debating, "Resolved, that when an irresistible force meets an immovable body something happens." But they were cut short by the precipitous entry of Miss Drury and Miss Colpitts, our Greek scholars, who, clad in flowing robes and driving the 776 B.C. jitney, were chanting touching selections from Homer. This Grecian version of modern ragtime moved some to tears, others to violence. We entered and were entertained by the antics of the inseparable infants, Wallis and Willins, until the dinner was ready. Osborne, perched on a high stool at the head of the table, with a mighty roar summoned the company to the feast. Then, indeed, there was a joyous sight. Kipling, whose radiant countenance cast a ruddy glow around him, caused mince-pies to vanish in a manner worthy of a professional conjuror; Dickinson made inroads upon the plum-pudding until nothing remained but the aroma; and the turkey, under the attacks of Finland and Tait, speedily left its mortal frame. Above the hum of the conversation could be heard the voice of Vic

Mrs. Gamp "On Duty"

The Over-Dressed Autocrat

"Harmless Hartley"

Hall propounding algebraical questions to his patient hearers, Butterfield and Campbell. "If the specific gravity of the plum pudding is 35.5, what will be the size of the doctor's bill?" Campbell and Butterfield giving it up despairingly, Hall triumphantly proved that it would be infinity. Butterfield proceeded to dilate upon the dramatic unities, despite the clamor of Hall propounding algebraical impossibilities. Both kept arguing on widely different subjects, producing a confused jumble highly edifying to their audience.

Meanwhile Osborne, with his insatiable curiosity, opened the bonbon lying on the table before him. He was greeted with the following missive, elaborately adorned with Cupids:

"Your ecstatic actions are enrapturing all our hearts. Please refrain in order to avoid complications. Ever thine, Girls of the V.H.S."

While he was recovering from the shock, Knapton proceeded to open his. In it he read: "Dear Sir—Permit me to offer a few hints on how to edit a school paper. Publish beforehand examination questions, write the editorials in verse, fill the rest of the paper with jokes, and I can assure you an increased circulation. Yours, Hiram Hayseed, editor Pumpkinville Bugle."

At this juncture Miss Boyd genially asked, "Who dragged who round the walls of what city and why?" but everybody pretended they had not heard.

Hutchison then arose, clad in the costume of Mrs. Gamp, and declaimed, "I will now propoge a toast—to the assembled company, first and foremost myself." Needless to say, this was drunk enthusiastically by all.

Boulton next opened his bonbon, assisted by O'Brien. He found as follows: "Sincerest congratulations on your impersonation of a senseless autocrat in 'Blood and Iron.' I could have done no better myself. Wm. Hohenzollern."

Hartley, in the exuberance of young virile manhood, glorying in his sheer dominating physical power, speedily forgot the terrible mandates of the food controller. So enamoured did he become of the pigskin hash that he could not resist the temptation of trying to kick a "drop" with a plum pudding. It was a remarkably successful drop. It soared up and dropped into Millard's angelical countenance and converted his Greek features into a sticky mess, which bore a marked resemblance to Lineham's pants after a battle in the mud.

The feasters were next treated to a speech from A. E. Hall upon the value of agriculture in general. "Ladies and Gentlemen," he harangued, "consider the beautiful, the sublime simplicity of the potato, the effervescent glory of the bean, the tearful splendor of the onion." He produced the aforementioned specimens, and his followers, to show their agreement, melted into tears. Avoiding such a watery grave I turned my gaze elsewhere.

Miss Corrance, who had been manfully (?) holding her own among a group of overawed males, boldly opened her bonbon. The following struck her eye. "If the militant tactics exhibited in hockey

games with the boys are to be cultivated by practice at the rifle range we, the boys, despairingly abandon all hopes of more conflicts with the girls."

Alec Moore, with solemn dignity, then investigated his cracker. This note was found: "I earnestly implore you, as adjutant of the V.H.S. Cadet Corps, to use every effort to keep the cadets from the front. My downfall would then be a matter of moments. Wm. Hohenzollern."

Heanie and Forbes, in place of an ordinary bonbon, were confronted with a cracker at least two feet long. With blind regard for the consequences they pulled vigorously. There was an explosion; each suddenly regained his seat, and Yeo, with an extremely astonished air, appeared from within the cracker. How he got there is still a mystery.

I turned to watch Bassett and Bickell, who were endeavoring to open a very small bonbon. It seemed to require all their strength. At last they succeeded, and being without strength to articulate, they asked one of the assembled multitude—Louis Fatt—to read the message. Hereupon Fatt delivered an oration upon basketball, stating among other things that the V.H.S. was built around the nucleus of a gym, and solely for the purpose of containing the said source of edification. The class-rooms were merely resorts for relaxation where the players spent their leisure hours.

Looking elsewhere, I saw a solitary individual seated aloof from the common herd, and meditating upon the vanity and folly of plum puddings, pies, etc. I was informed by the manly Kelly that it was Choppie. As he gently commenced a serenade of snores I turned in search of new experiences.

When finally everyone's appetite had been satisfied (even Turpel's) Alan Hall and the phlegmatic Edgerton seized a monster cracker at least six feet long. They gave a mighty pull and—nothing happened. Another mighty pull—again nothing happened. Others took hold, and finally, with a deafening roar, the cracker exploded. When the debris cleared away, nothing was visible of my former companions, so with a reluctant sigh I sat down and chronicled the above events.

Miss Smith—Will you please parse the noun "kiss"?

Clarabel—This word is a noun, but is used as a conjunction; it is never declined; it is more common than proper; is is never singular, being used only in the plural; it agrees with "me."—Provi.

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Leonard—How would you like to have a pet monkey?

Bessie—Oh dear, this is so sudden.—Provi.

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We presume the way to a woman's heart is (well, the same as to a man's) and that accounts for M. G.'s great liking for Stevenson's Chocolates.

THE time is again drawing near when Christmas, symbolical of good cheer and happiness, will be celebrated. Contrary to our hopes it will not witness peace, but, at least, it may serve as a forerunner of that state which we hope may soon be realized,—Not, we add, too soon, but with the assurance of the continuation of such peace when established. We cannot expect to have a Christmas as gay, as carefree as previous ones, but even if the outward manifestations are not as apparent, the sincerity of feeling, the cordiality and the good will redolent of the first Christmas will not be absent from our hearts.

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For the benefit of the Prelims and any others who are ignorant of the fact, we may state that the matriculation students, following the custom of previous years, have decided to present a play, the proceeds of which are to be devoted to the furtherance of the patriotic work and other activities of the school. After much consideration, Shakespeare's "As You Like It," has been selected, and rehearsals are now being conducted under the direction of Miss Helen Badgly. The play will be presented early in the new year, and the co-operation of every loyal student is expected in order to make it an unqualified success.

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Friday, Nov. 23rd, was a day very much looked forward to by the V. H. S. students on account of a visit to the school from His Excellency, the Governor General. The auditorium was decorated with ferns and flowers, the wall at the back being draped with the flags of the Allies. The proceedings opened with the National Hymn, "O Canada," followed by a short address from Mr. Smith. Mr. George Jay then gave an address explaining the aims of the Victoria Schools. In his reply, His Excellency described the advantages of a good education and the effect it had on the character of the nation; Also, that we were fighting for the maintenance of high Canadian ideals and that we must see the war to a successful end. In conclusion he urged the students to do their part in carrying on the great heritage of Canada. After three hearty cheers for His Majesty

and three more for His Excellency, followed by the National Anthem, the school dismissed. The Duke's visit was a great honor to the school and we hope that when he comes to Victoria again, he will not forget the V. H. S. * * * * *

Like everything else the Camosun is feeling the pinch of the times. We would ask those who clamor for larger issues and more illustrations to remember that such things cost money and with conditions as they are our expenditure must be carefully watched. Rest assured we are making the issues as large as we posisbly can, but with the necessity for constant economy there are limits which cannot be overstepped. If we cannot have issues quite as expensive as those of former years we hope to make up for it by better quality of material. Therefore, if you wish to have your school paper more successful than ever co-operate with it. Boost the Camosun!

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In order to gain still greater co-operation from the students, The Camosun has decided to offer two prizes, one for the best story, the other for the best poem. The work must be original and in the case of the story should not exceed 1,100 words. All material will be examined by specially appointed judges, and must be in by January 7. The prizes will most probably be V. H. S. pennants, which will be valued, not for their actual cost, but for the circumstances under which they were won. Here is some really definite work for the vacation! Let us have a generous response!

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To the relatives of Lieutenants Robin Gray and William Cutler, we extend our sincerest sympathy. Both of the boys were intimately connected with the school's life in athletic and dramatic circles and the news of their deaths was a source of grief to their many personal friends.

An Appeal

WHEN whole nations in Europe and thousands of men, women and children in our own country are in a state of utter destitution; when Poles, Serbs and Belgiaus are starving in order that we may enjoy this Yuletide as free people; when the Red Cross is in need of funds to carry on the work of mercy among the men who are suffering in our behalf—for us here in Canada to spend this Christmas as in former years, giving and receiving the same useless but costly presents would be a hideous mockery. Under these conditions a simple card of remembrance will be more acceptable than any of the expensive gifts in which we may indulge. Or, if we see there must be some tangible proof of friendship, let it at least be of some practical use. We owe this much to the soldiers, who will have before them on Christmas Day not the roaring blaze, the glistening tree—but a dreary prospect of mud and shell holes; who will hear, not the cheerful voices of their friends, but the thundering of guns and the screaming of shell.

Red Cross Concert

As a result of a great deal of painstaking work and thought on the part of some of the senior students of the V. H. S., a very successful concert was held on the evening of Saturday, Nov. 24th in the High School Auditorium. The proceeds amounted to some $112, of which $106 was donated to the Fernwood Branch of the Red Cross the remainder being devoted to the patriotic work of the school.

The greater part of the program was contributed by High School students, but none the less conspicuous were the numbers given by outside talent, which included some of the best in the city. Several delightful vocal selections were rendered by Mrs. MacDonald Fahey, who was the recipient of many encores. Mrs. J. B. Shaw and Mr. E. Butterworth also contributed vocal numbers which were greatly appreciated. Especially interesting was a piano solo by Miss Lois Cassil, an ex-student of the V. H. S. and a very talented artist. An element of mysticism was amply provided by Messrs. Diggon and MacLean, in a very clever conjuring performance lasting nearly half an hour, every moment of which was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience.

The High School talent in its turn was represented in a more varied, but equally pleasing form. Miss Daisy Corrance and Miss I. Sangster both delighted their hearers by humorous recitations,, which were ably delivered. Several dances were gracefully executed by some of the girls, and they were each in turn received by the audience in a manner which spoke well for the skill of the dancers, and for the training they had received at the hands of their instructress, Miss Jarvis. The Misses Palmer, Beckwith, Macmillan and Wood sang a quartette which was also greatly appreciated by the audience. One of the hits of the evening was a humorous ventriloquial sketch by E. Rust who displayed remarkable powers in this direction; and last but not least, in the estimation of the audience, the two sketches, "Mrs. Gamp on Duty," by Hutchison and Butterfield, and "Blood and Iron," by Hutchison, Boulton and Yeo, created a great deal of interest and displayed to great advantage the ability of the actors. Mr. Dilworth of the faculty deserves great credit for the able manner in which he fulfilled the duties of accompanist of the evening.

Indeed, all those concerned in this very successful entertainment are to be congratulated on having presented an extremely interesting and enjoyable program, and, above all, for the material assistance rendered to a very deserving cause.

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Mention must be made of the fact that the V. H. S., through its patriotic organization, sent a contribution of seventy-five dollars for the relief of the Halifax sufferers. The actual value of the gift was enhanced by the knowledge that it was a means of immediate relief to the stricken city and every boy and girl, for it represents us all, should enjoy his or her vacation the more for this small sacrifice.

Current Topics

DURING the past few weeks an event of some importance has taken place—Lord Lansdowne, one of the most prominent members of the English aristocracy, has written a letter to The London Daily Telegraph, advocating a definite statement of the Allied peace terms. This letter has been almost universally condemned as a sign of weakness, as giving the Central Empires a seeming indication that Britain is tired of the war.

In considering this proposal, we must remember that the enemy with which we are struggling is Prussian militarism, a mental state which has come to dominate absolutely over the minds of the German peoples. It is a firm conviction that the Teutonic civilization has been divinely ordained to rule the earth, and that the only method of establishing it as such is through armed force. This condition is very similar to a hypnotic spell, which prevents those under its influence from being able to understand conditions and to know the right. It is the aim of the Allies to bring Germany out of this spell and to restore its senses, not to destroy or harm the nation as a whole.

There is one, and one only, method of accomplishing our aim, and that is by defeating the German army on the field of battle in a truly decisive manner, a defeat which cannot be explained away as a strategic movement. This will convince the German people that their dream of world dominion is empty; that it cannot be realized. But, unfortunately, the Germany army still retains the confidence of its people; consequently the militaristic spirit still reigns.

Nevertheless, the leaders of the Central Empires realize that the present attempts to overcome the world has failed and that they are in danger of complete deposition if peace is not immediately concluded to enable them to prepare for a second attempt. Hence they are willing to accept any terms which would leave them an opportunity to repeat their venture. Now, if the Allies enumerated their demands and if they remained consistent in their desire for liberty and justice, they would have to confine these to such matters as territory and indemnities. It would be impossible to lay down any definite peace requirements which would remove the spirit of Prussianism, and it would be inconsistent to interfere with the internal affairs of Germany.

Germany is in such a condition now that she would accept any such terms as have been outlined above, and so the statement of definite war aims would result in immediate peace, and its army not being decisively defeated, the militaristic spirit would remain. It would mean that the Hohenzollern would go unpunished and that his crime would inevitably be repeated, that the spirit of despotism would still hang over Europe and stifle democracy. No, we cannot consider peace, nor peace terms, until Germany has been defeated, until France and Belgium have been freed from the heel of the invader, until the terrible menace of Prussianism has been expelled from the globe, until the world has been made "safe for democracy."

The Return

ON a green hill-top far away, there stands a sacred temple. It overlooks the peaceful valley far below, and at intervals its great bells send deep peals out on the mountain air. Drawing nearer one can hear a weird noise that fills one's soul with sadness. It is the chanting of the priests as they make their offerings to the gods.

Let us watch the never-ending procession that creeps up this well-beaten path. Here comes a happy family with a child, only thirty days old, to be christened; there, a band of children to offer their gifts. Men, women and young people of every rank and station are in the crowds that come daily to the shrine seeking vainly to satisfy the longing in their hearts after a light.

Our eyes catch sight of an aged couple, wrinkled and bent, that toil up the road. On their faces there is a tired, lifeless look. We follow them into the temple and watch them slip into a secluded corner. There sits an old wooden image, hideous and distorted, with its hands worn smooth and black by the many offerings laid on them. The old couple toddle feebly towards it, and, after making their offering, clap their hands to attract the attention of the god. Then they tell of their only son, who is away in a foreign land; of their great love for him, their daily longing to see him, and ask for strength to bear their sorrow. But when they turn home again the ache is still in their hearts, and on their faces there is still the same hopeless look.

Down the long, winding pathway they go, this time slower and more carefully, for the fast-gathering darkness hides many dangers from their sight. Will they ever reach home? Weariness seems to possess their frames, and they can hardly drag themselves along. At last, however, when strength is almost gone, they round the curve that hides their home from sight. What mean the ejaculations that burst from their lips? Oh, a light like a star twinkles at them from their window. They rush on, all things forgotten, and burst into the house.

The next day we heard the rest of the story. It was the much-longed-for son who had come back at that Christmas season. And with his coming and the message of peace and goodwill which he brought from the Western land, there were promises of a brighter and happier life for the old people.

—ANNIE NAKABAYASHI.

Seeker after knowledge—I understand that you know a good remedy for keeping horses from foaming at the mouth.

Encyclopedic genius—Teach your horse to spit.—Provi.

* * * * *

Returned soldier—If I ever go back to England I am going to Bath.

Young lady—Good gracious! I should hope so.

PORTIA SOCIETY

AT the meeting on November 14, an interesting debate took place: "Resolved, that small high schools and colleges are more beneficial than large ones." Christine Ross and Florence Challoner upheld the affirmative against Hermia Harris and Jean Graham. The negative, in arguing their cause made a comparison between Victoria High School and a smaller one, pointing out that at the V. H. S. the organizations were better, the pupils and the teachers were better, and the school, as a whole, more efficient. In spite of this irrefutable point, however, the upholders of the affirmative dealt with their side so well, that the judges, Miss J. Macleod and Mr. Clarke, awarded the decision in their favor.

The notice for the next meeting of the "Portia" announced simply that an interesting program would be provided. When those who, led by curiosity as to the "interesting program," were safely in the library, the president calmly announced that, when the minutes had been read and approved, the secretary would call the roll of members. It was expected that when your name was called, you would give a quotation, or, as a last resource, if your memory completely failed you, that you would answer "present." Many and various were the quotations given. When the awful ordeal was over the first item on the program was announced, as a reading, given by Gertrude Bryce, who, in introducing her subject, said that, as the "Portia" meetings were to be instructive as well as entertaining, she would endeavor to familiarize us with the plot of at least one of Shakespeare's plays, "The Merchant of Venice." She then read a most interesting and humorous parody, which was so well received that since then we have seen numerous enlightened Prelims eagerly searching for golden thoughts among the ancient, dust-covered volumes of Shakespeare. The second item was a recitation by Violet Hastings, entitled "Handing Down," being the letter of a soldier in the trenches to his little son at home. The very hearty applause with which it was received, must have been sufficient to convince Miss Hastings of her success. Then followed a very amusing and

also intensely exciting incident entitled, "Love in a Baloon," read by Hanora Staneland. In this, as the baloon rose higher and higher, the danger increased until the fair heroine consented to bestow her hand upon the airman, as the only means of saving her life, and when, upon reaching ground, she administered to him a box in the ear, telling him that he had received all of her hand he was ever likely to get, uproarious applause and laughter from all the members ensued. The next and last item of the program was given by Jean Sargent, who read two of Drummond's well-known "Habitant" poems. Miss Sargent is to be particularly congratulated on her choice, having selected two poems of altogether different types, and so bringing out more clearly the versatility of the poet.

Then, after some business and suggestions as to the sending of literature to the soldiers overseas had been concluded, this long and thoroughly enjoyed meeting was brought to a close.

Reflections of a War-Worn Fritz

When first I put my feld-gran on,
And to my Grechen proudly looked
For praise, I walked the air upon,
And little dream'd my goose was cooked.

But soon, too soon, it seemed to me,
To battle's roar we all were rushed.
Our cries were loud, "Hoch! Germany!"
"The English swine must soon be crushed!"

Vain hopes! We thought that England would
By German might, to dust be brought,
That no unkultured schweinhund could
Withstand the wrath of "Me und Gott."

And when we saw the English fall
We thanked our "Gott" on bended knee,
And "Deutschland, Deutschland, uber alles,"
Our song arose, Wilhelm, to thee.

But soon this changed; more men, more guns!
The English pigs!—ah, well, you've heard:
And though they called us "Filthy 'Uns!"
Well, "Kamerad" was a useful word.

And now I'm safe! no more I stand
In mud knee-deep; you see, I'm wiser.
I now in peace do till their land,
And learn to say, "Gott strafe der Kaiser!"

—C. H. TAIT.

"Johnsonese"

SOME of the members of our Junior Year develop a Latin-English style which, we think, would delight the soul of Dr. Johnson. Consider the following:

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"A little boy was sitting on a chair when he heard a knock at the door."

A small member of the human bi-ped class of males was upon one of those instruments used by these members for comfortable postions of the upright posture, when his auditory senses informed his mental faculties that a sound was proceeding from the entrance of his habitation.

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"Jack and Jill went up a hill
To get a pail of water,
Jack fell down and broke his crown,
And Jill came tumbling after."

Jack and Jill ascended an aclivity
To procure an aquarius puncheon,
Jack prostrated himself and segregated his cephalon,
And Jill approximated, gravitating after.

* * * * * * *

"The boy laughed at the tin can tied to the dogs tail."

The risibility of the youth was excited, and he broke into spasmodic cachinnation at the adherence which had been affixed to the caudal appendage of the canine.

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"The actor asked the girl to be his wife."

This male exponent of the histrionic art proferred to the virgin the exceptional opportunity of renouncing single life, that they, in union, might partake of the questionable felicity of unbounded domesticity.

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"As I was taking a walk I asked a man the time, and by his harsh reply I saw he was only a ruffian. I told him to get out of my sight, and, fearing a fight, he passed on."

As I was sauntering along the promenade admiring the scrophullariaceae which grew in the vicinity, I espied a rural individual. I interrogated him concerning the transition of time, and on hearing his unrefined demonstration, my apprehension ingeniously perceived that he was only a simpleton. So, when I had determined that he was only an obscure vulgar degenerate, I challenged him to retire most promiscuously, and not to contaminate my company. And, fearing a sanguinary engagement, he spontaneously retired.

President—Order! Order!
Debater—Ham and eggs.

BETA DELTA

THE meeting of Nov. 1st will be long remembered by all who witnessed it. Two experienced speakers and two others, vaunted as unknown prodigies held forth loudly on the subject of bi-lingualism in Canada. Daniells, who commenced the debate, evidently overburdened by the weight of the subject, gracefully seated himself on the president's table. Such unbecoming levity was sternly reproved and with the aid of the secretary, Daniells was forced from his unconventional position. Nothing daunted, a little later he again attempted the experiment. Again his manoeuvre was frustrated and again the indignant president showed him the unpardonable iniquity of his crime. Evidently the oratorical genius was convinced, for, after a final outburst he subsided into his chair. The other speakers although attempting nothing so striking, acquitted themselves excellently. Finally, it was learned that the negative, McIntosh and Brown, had gained the victory over Daniells and Owen. Butterfield then proceeded to give a recitation in which a highly perplexed French traveller endeavored to seek information from a phlegmatic Englishman. The terrible frenzy into which the Frenchman worked himself veritably caused the hair of the audience to stand on end. When the required information had been given to the erratic traveller the meeting adjourned.

HARRY CROSS

An ex-president, who was recently gassed at the front

At the next meeting the Society departed from its usual activities and held a joint mass meeting with the "Portia," an event of this kind having never taken place before. Five miscellaneous items were provided by the girls while the Beta Delta contributed a spectacular playlet, "Blood and Iron."

The play, although short was excellently rendered and was heartily approved of by all who saw it. The meeting was brought to a close by the singing of "God Save the King." Then the audience dispersed, over half the school having witnessed an event which marks a red letter day in the history of the two societies.

At the next meeting a debate took place, the first speaker being Mayne. After he was started all fear vanished and he became a

red hot debater hurling arguments with sharp "points" at the judges and members. In fact they all became so impressed that they were obliged to acknowledge that the Patriotic Fund should be under Government control. The next speaker, Howlett, a budding second Socrates, easily turned the opinion of the fickle crowd in the other direction. Then Nash arose and after having declaimed for some time, sat down amid hearty clapping. The next speaker, Hall, loudly informed the audience that Government control was needless. Finally the Misses Cann and Roberts gave the victory to the negative, after a few words of kindly criticism.

At the next meeting four short speeches were given. The first speaker, Sherwood, described the Moslem Egyptians. Near the end of his speech he produced some pictures of Egyptian writing and a queer arrangement which, judging from its appearance, was a musical instrument. It was passed among the audience, who vainly sought to produce a single note from it. Then followed a speech on "Medical Feats During the War," by McCann. His address was very businesslike and, although he spoke rather quietly, all attentive listeners were sure to find it interesting. The next speaker, Upshall, spoke on "Bernard Shaw," and while giving an interesting account of his life, introduced some good humor. Campbell then arose and spoke concerning Mars. This interesting speech concluded the meeting.

The thanks of the Society are due to Jackson for the great trouble he has taken in preparing the excellent signs which, for the last few months, have advised the public of our meetings.

"Christmas in the Trenches"

CHRISTMAS to the boys in the trenches means "parcels from home." And where parcels, whose contents are unknown, are being opened, there is always a subdued air of excitement, and, on Christmas, of festivity. Christmas comes every year, and is not even delayed by such a momentous event as a war, but under these conditions it is rather a time of prayer than of festivity, or so it seems to those who have friends and relatives at the front.

The distribution of parcels, "somewhere in France," was being eagerly watched by a band of soldiers, each man expectantly awaiting his parcel. Every man? No, there is one who has not an expectant look. He has no one to send him a parcel, no relatives and no interested friends, so he sits watching the excitement of his comrades. Suddenly his name is called; he answers, thinking there is some mistake. He goes forward and a parcel is handed to him; he looks at it with a dazed expression. Sure enough, his name and number are distinctly written on the package. Still doubtful, he unwraps it. A card drops out, and on it is written, "With best wishes, from the V. H. S."

EDNA HUMBER.

The Students' Agricultural Club of British Columbia

THE action of the V. H. S. agriculturalists in taking the initiative by forming what appears to be the first organization of its kind in Canada, marks by no means the least important step in the Renaissance of Agriculture. Since the farmer has been "coming into his own," many organizations have been formed to meet the problems which excessive competition in the industrial world has produced in rural districts. The two chief objects toward which this movement has been directed are, however, of purely economic interest. These are, briefly: "How to increase production on the farm," and "How to insure the farmer getting his due share of the profit from his labor." In other words, the sole object has been "to make farming pay" better.

That this aim is one-sided has been already only too forcibly demonstrated by the present war. The up-to-date agricultural student realizes that he has a life to live, not merely to support. He must look further afield than his predecessors, and see that while he can help the economic conditions of his fellows, there is a still grander work to do in the reconstruction of the society of which he is a part.

The call today is for leaders—for all-round men and women, such as our boys and girls aspire to be. The preparation for leadership, however, must begin now. The leader of the future must have an intelligent sympathy with all those with whom he comes in contact. He must not only know how things should be done—he must be able to do them, and he must also be able to tell others how to do them. In order to attain this standard the student must develop his initiative—he must reach out for himself and grasp these faculties if he is to get them at all. This is the work of the club.

An event of importance in the history of the newly formed club took place on December 1, when a delegation of local members, chaperoned by Mr. Hallwright, went to Duncan to confer with a similar body of students concerning the forming of an organization there.

On arrival the party was met by a reception committee and entertained to lunch at the Tzouhalem Hotel. Following this a large number of interested students gathered in the hotel drawing-room for the formal conference. Mr. Hallwright acted as chairman. Denholme and A. E. Hall urged the Duncan students to organize, and outlined the club's work. Miss Scobie and Miss Morris then spoke on the work from the woman's point of view.

These speakers were followed by various Duncanites, who gave evidence of great interest and promised to deal with the matter at the next students' meeting. After thanking their hosts for the kind hospitality shown them, the Victorians were driven through the surrounding country, returning in time to catch the 4:10 train.

The members of the Agricultural Club have decided to invite all students of the V.H.S. to join. Special forms are being prepared for this purpose.

RUGBY

On Friday the 16th of November, the V. H. S. rugby team met the University School fifteen in the first game of the season. Within a few minutes of the commencement of play the University scored their first try and from that time on the game was more or less of a walkover for our opponents. They crossed the line five times during the game but each time failed to convert the try. The High School forwards though heavier than those of the University could not get the ball out of the scrum and our opponents' back division was superior to our own in combination.

HARRY COPAS
Prominent athlete and captain of the Rugby team

The High School had many free kicks awarded against them for infringement of the off-side rule and from one of these the University scored, bringing the number of points in their favor up to 18.

The yellow and black was not doomed to utter and absolute defeat, however, for, after some nice runs Millard secured our only touchdown in the last three minutes of play. Lineham converted this with a very pretty kick and the game ended 18-5 in favor of University.

In the next game with University, however, the High School partially, if not wholly, retrieved its previous defeat. The V. H. S. won the toss and for the first half had the advantage of playing down hill. The University boys soon found that they must needs exert themselves more strenuously if they wished to win this game, for everybody on the High School team worked hard and our opponents' line was more than once threatened. Their strong point, however, was their dribbling rushes. Time and again they rushed down

the field and brought the ball perilously near the V. H. S. line before our heavier forwards could rally in front of them and check their progress. Some of the High School forwards conceived the brilliant idea of lying on the ball when our opponents adopted these dribbling tactics; the idea was a splendid one, but the referee objected. Towards the end of the first half the University made the only score of the game, netting three points from a free kick awarded against the High School for an off-side. All the next half the V. H. S. played hard and the University was very lucky in being able to prevent them from crossing the line. In this half Art. Lewis tackled a big University player and when the two were untangled, Lewis seemed to be taking a rest; but after some minutes of working his arms he came back to life and in a short time was playing again. One of the prettiest runs of the game was made by Lineham, but it did not succeed and the whistle blew with the score standing 3-0 in favor of the University. The line-up was as follows: Forwards—MacDonald, Campbell, Middleton, Heaney, Naden, Emery, Colin Campbell, F. Lewis; halves—Forbes and Bainbridge; three-quarters—Copas (capt.), Lineham, Millard, A. Lewis; fullback—Gravelin.

* * * * *

GIRLS' HOCKEY

The first game of the season was played on our own grounds, against the Oak Bay High School, each team consisting of five girls and six boys. It proved quite a fast game from start to finish and resulted in a tie, the score standing two all. The players went to the lunch room after the game for a "spread," prepared by the various hockey players among the girls, with Miss Henry acting as chaperone. An uproarious time ensued.

The next match was also played here, being between a full girls' team and the Victoria Teachers' team, but shortly after half time it was unfortunately brought to an abrupt end by the referee, on account of rough playing, with four goals to the credit of the teachers. The girls once more treated their visitors to refreshments, Miss Henry again presiding.

Shortly after this a return game against Oak Bay took place, this time at the Oak Bay Park. The teams were very evenly matched and the game was decidedly fast, the girls showing a great improvement over their former playing, so much so, that we are indeed justified in hoping that they will emerge victorious fom the coming encounter with Vancouver. V. H. S. scored in the first half, Miss James shooting the goal, and Oak Bay in the second, the score being one to one when the final whistle blew.

There was, at this match, the stupendous number of two spectators from Victoria High, including the spare, and indeed there were few more at the previous ones. You, perhaps, do not realize the encouragement a team gets from the sight (and sound!) of an enthusiastic band of spectators, but we urge you to come in that capacity to the next match, and see if you can't help to make the V. H. S. victorious.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

The committee, in consultation with Mr. Cook, has now decided what times are to be set aside for the members of the different years to play, and notices have been posted to that effect. We take this opportunity of urging you all to come out to the practices and try for a position on the inter-year teams; if you know the game, come and play; if you don't know it, come and learn.

Mr. Smith has given his consent to the carrying out of a suggestion made by the girls, that the two side baskets be moved to make room for another basket on each side, so that two games may be carried on at the same time, thus enabling more girls to play in one afternoon, and also enabling all to play more often. However, in spite of this arrangement, everyone cannot play first and we hope the girls will all remember this, and not be discouraged if they are forced to wait now and then.

The Prelims are to be commended for the great interest they have so far shown in this branch of athletics, and it is evident that there will undoubtedly be keen competition for the various positions on the Preliminary team this winter.

Cadet News

During the stay of the Governor General the Cadet Corps was given an opportunity of displaying its efficiency, and, notwithstanding lack of drill, acquitted itself in a manner which reflects the greatest credit upon the instructor, Lieut. Hutchison. The appearance of the unit which took part in the march to the Parliament Buildings surpassed all expectations and caused much favorable comment among the many spectators. On the occasion of his visit to the school His Excellency inspected the guard of honor drawn up to meet him and complimented the commanding officer on the smartness of his men, whom, he said, he had noted on the preceding day.

In addition to the regular shooting practises each week, two competitions have been held with the Esquimalt corps, the honors of which were shared equally by both teams. The first of these matches was shot in the Armory; our representatives, overawed, doubtless, by the novelty of the circumstances and the majesty of the range, fell easy victims to the prowess of their opponents. However, next time the results were far different and the rustic sharpshooters went home in a very dejected fram of mind.

The growing military spirit of the girls is a source of much comment. That they should be contemplating, as set forth in a local paper, the establishment of a rival corps, affords the boys a great deal of tolerant amusement. But since the shooting competition between the two, the attitude of the veterans has changed from derision to wonderment, and wonderment has given place to wholesome respect. They need not despair, for, although they were defeated, their score lacked only 20 points of doubling that of their competitors.

SENIOR MATRIC

Some brilliant physicists spent a qarter of an hour weighing a 200-gram weight before they discovered that this was unnecessary.

If those who do not take a full course are called "partials," should those who do, be called "imp's." or "impartials?" Some (an ever decreasing number) might merit the title.

One member of the class relates the following: After singing the National Anthem, a young Victorian said, "If we sing 'Send him victorious,' do the people in Vancouver sing 'send him vancouverous?'"

Sotto Voce—That Legg was told that he was seen one Friday evening taking four young ladies home from dancing class.

That he replied to this by saying there were only three!

That he said their names were Ethel Alcohol, Olive Oil, and Violet Ray.

SENIOR MATRIC (Partials)

That the name "Hades" for the Senior Matric room should be changed to "Le Palais du Fox Trot."

That Joey would be our star.

That Campbell, Mitchell and Legg would be good seconds.

That "Les danseurs du Palais du Fox Trot" will be in their glory on the night of December 21st.

MATRIC A

In respect to providing material for the Camosun class report, Matric A apparently agrees with Choppy that sleeping is the chief joy of life.

Some of us have decided, after lively discussions, that Le Petit Chase was very athletic when young. It was his custom invariably to go up and down stairs four steps at a time; it was a small matter for him to jump with one bound from his chair, over a table, and on to his brother's neck, and he could leap out of a railway carriage and over the barrier, again landing with one jump on his unfortunate brother's neck. Also, as Given says, "Daniel Eyssette could sit with his head reversed," and Margaret maintains he could sit on his elbow. What athletes were he and his mother James!

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Wright seems to think the Romans were a barbarous people, since, he says, on one occasion they threw their old women into one place.

MATRIC B

Monday morning in Matric B.

Eight o'clock dawns grey and cheerless and from various parts of the town members of the illustrious class are either nobly getting up to face the "moosic" at 9:15, or are blissfully unconscious of anything except a perfect dream of Christmas lasting a month, and no exams "because of the war." Thus they proceed, few rising later than 8:45, to crawl to school from 9 o'clock on. The scene now shifts to room one, and should one dare to enter this region of the blessed, they would be greeted with the awesome spectacle of three fuming beings, hard at work: Miss Lowe, Miss Bracket and Ryall, and the sad part of it is, it's genuine. Before you have found time to recover at this eighth wonder of the world an avalanche of six hollow-eyed people make a dive to get in, Sam and McMichael getting wedged in the doorway, but Miss James, fortunately passing, helps them in with a more forcible than polite poke with a blunderbuss; pardon, a hockey stick. Next comes a voice, probably belonging to a bo'sun; everybody immediately looks resigned, and enlightens you by saying that it is only Nash the "infant phenomenon," whereupon he enters and explains that he has to use a stentorian voice and long words to balance himself with youths of grosser proportions. By this time the barefaced clock registeres 9:12 and from all ends desperadoes rush in, frantically inquiring of everybody in general, and no one in particular. "Miss Thorpe, have you written that paragraph?" Graham: "I couldn't do it as I didn't know which Jacques it was." Miss Cullum: "Why can't I ever do homework on the week-end?" Willins: "No, Nebuchadnezzar was not the first king of Rome, that was the Dauphin's name for his dad." But at last the bell ends discussion, and Miss Pommerville, whom we could plainly see standing outside the door turns in, and has the joy of "only just making it."

MATRIC C

Our chemistry teacher says that he can see certain members of the class who have good prospects of becoming great chemists. No doubt Kelly and Petrie are numbered among these. The experiments contained in the text-book are mere child's play for them, they prefer something more manly, such as making gun-powder. In fact, as a result of their gun-powder researches they were invited to hear a lecture concerning their experiment at 3:15.

MATRIC D

"A fair exchange is no robbery." Matric D, believing firmly in this axiom, gave a concert not long ago in the Princess Theatre, in order to raise funds for the weekly Red Cross subscription. About half the required sum was taken in and handed to Miss Boyd, who felt—having seen the concert—that this was indeed a "fair exchange."

The program was as follows: Sergt.-Major C. H. Tait, Matric D's hero, rendered the latest war song, accompanied by Bainbridge on the bagpipes. We perpetrated our latest comedy, "The Boy in the Back Seat," with Jones as chief actor. Middleton demonstrated

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the newest and best laboratory method of obtaining peroxide (which was carefully noted by Miss Jackson). Wilfred, wearing his new boots, gave a wonderful interpretation of "Romeo" with Isabel as his "Juliet." Myrtle, our poetess, recited an impromptu poem beginning.

"Nora knows that it might have been,
So she no longer talks in Room 13."

Miss Harris ably filled the important part of last on the program, by giving an absolutely faultless translation of Caesar's Gallic War, II and III Many already familiar with the story—in Latin, if not in English—made quite a disturbance in reaching the door, but aside from this, everything went smoothly.

—o—

JUNIOR A

Renaissance Movement, Chapter II. The poet-orator of Junior A will deign to honor us with one of his (in)famous love sonnets. Undoubtedly his name will be classed with those of Dante, Shakespeare and Stephen Leacock. Also as an orator he even puts Socrates in the dark, in fact he recently won his D.H.A. (Doctor of Hot Air) in the Beta Delta.

She was a phantom of delight,
When first I saw her in the night;
But when I saw her in the day—
My thoughts turned in another way.
My dazzled sight she had deceived,
My broken heart she much had grieved,
And now my heart with sorrow fills
On paying all the florist's bills.—O. J. B.

Teacher—Miss P——, are you eating something?
Miss P—— —No, I've finished now, thank you.

—o—

JUNIOR B

One event, which was a great success, has taken place in the election of the "Junior B Giant," to the post of Punctuality Officer.

Getting their ideas from seeing our "Hobo's Weekly," some members of different Juniors have taken it on themselves to publish different papers such as "The Daily Spoof," although, of course, none of them can call themselves equals to the "Hobo."

—o—

JUNIOR C

What can be the feelings of the unfortunate Beta Delta representative who has carefully and diligently written an attractive description of the next meeting of his society, when he again comes into his room after getting his books, only to find that the persisting and heartless members of his class have extracted the square or cube root of, added to, subtracted from, or otherwise mutilated his precious notice?

An instance of this reprehensible practice is changing "Four Short Speeches, Such as 'Life on Mars,'" to "Four Short Screeches on 'Such is Life on Mars.'"

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JUNIOR D

O, listen, listen, readers gay!
No mighty Hudson Six I tell;
Soft is the note and sad the lay
That mourns the Ford of Rosabelle.

"Shut off the gas, ye gallant crew,
And, gentle ladye, deign to stay!
Rest thee in Castle Castoffshoe,
Nor drive the fickle Ford today."

"'Tis not because I wish to ride
In this old bus o'er Scotland's hills,
But here I must no longer bide,
For I am getting fearful chills."

Through Scotland on that dreary night
A shrieking Ford was seen to tear;
In sooth it was a fearsome sight
To see the lovely ladye there.

But as the Ford then gathered speed
From off the rugged earth it leapt—
Up in the clouds it could be see'd,
While Rosy tore her hair and wept.

From mortal sight it passed away,
And never was it seen again
Poor Rosabelle was gone for aye,
Yes, gone beyond our human ken.

—o—

PRELIM A

Recent events in Prelim-A Land—In that flowery land of tropical luxuriance, where Marguerites, Violets, Lilies, Irises, Ivys, and Ferns flourish, and sportive little Kitties gambol playfully beside gently murmuring Brooks, there dwells a Savage (only known member of his species in existence) who recently tried to Brand two of his followers. His neighbors, who are really very Jolly, thereupon rose up against his sway, and a Battle of Hastings ensued, after which the Savage, being defeated, was confined in a draughty Hall, inside an enclosure with high Gates; and may he rest in peace!

—o—

PRELIM C

Notice—Contributions for cough lozenges are requested for the use of the girls of Prelim C in Room 38. All donations thankfully received.

Teacher, (In grammar class)—"What is the gender of ship?"
Copas—"Feminine?"
Teacher—"Why would a captain call his ship feminine?"
Copas—"Because it is so hard to manage."

PRELIM D

"Recitation of a Geometrical Problem"
(With apologies to Shakespeare)

Is this geometry I see before me,
The problem to be proved? Alas, I must recite thee!
I know thee not, and yet I see thee still,
Am I not, fateful problem, capable
Of understanding as of sight? Or art thou but
A grindstone for my mind, a cruel creation
Proceeding from the heartless ancient's head?
I see thee yet, in form less comprehensible
Than those which I have learned.
Thou summonest me to prove thy angles equal,
But such a thing I know not how to do.
My mind appears less clear than other pupils'
Or else they have help, I see thee faint,
But now they all make fun of what I do
Which was not so before.

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